

Annual Report of the OSMF Talk-List Moderators May 23, 2026

This report chronicles actions taken by the five moderators ("Moderation Team") appointed to moderate the OpenStreetMap Foundation-sponsored talk lists at talk@openstreetmap.org (the "talk list") and osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org (the "osmf-talk list") and at three channels ("general", "foundation", and "tagging") on the community forum at community.openstreetmap.org. This chronology omits decisions to refrain from action on forum messages flagged for attention, when a moderator determined that no action was warranted, as no record of such decisions has been maintained. It also omits trivial interventions, such as splitting forum topics, dealing with spam, and routine reminders to adhere to the Etiquette Guidelines.

May 31, 2025 – Moderator Mustard deleted several off-topic posts to a thread about using Tesla imagery for mapping when they diverged into arguments about U.S. domestic politics.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/tesla-car-as-360-street-view-camera/130691/7>

July 5, 2025 – A community forum user attacked the Moderation Team for having admonished users who elicited multiple flags for inappropriate posts (without hiding or deleting any posts). Two community forum users flagged that user's attack as inappropriate and two additional users added thumbs-down emoticons. Moderator Mustard accepted the flags and returned the post to the author for editing.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/who-really-owns-openstreetmap-a-personal-concern-about-big-tech-in-osm/132089/42>

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/who-really-owns-openstreetmap-a-personal-concern-about-big-tech-in-osm/132089/44>

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/who-really-owns-openstreetmap-a-personal-concern-about-big-tech-in-osm/132089/52>

September 25, 2025—A community forum user started a request for comment on a tagging proposal, and over the next weeks responded to all suggestions and criticism with combative and inappropriate statements. Despite having several interlocutors protest the tone and content of this user's replies, the user continued to violate the Etiquette Guidelines until the Moderation Team voted to close the thread permanently on October 14th and to warn the forum user not to start a new thread in its place. The Moderation Team admonished the user and imposed a one-week block on participation in the forum.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/rfc-proposal-rio-de-la-plata/136102>

October 1, 2025—A community forum user became combative and insulted another forum user, accusing the other user of being a sock puppet. A moderator returned one post for editing by the user, but it was reposted with the inappropriate language intact. When viewed in light of other minor violations of the Etiquette Guidelines committed by the user, and bearing in mind the user's reputation as a leader in OSM software development, the Moderation Team voted to admonish said user to adhere to the Etiquette Guidelines, to set a good example for the community, and to refrain from *ad hominem* attacks on fellow community members with a warning that further violations would result in sanctions.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/organic-maps-open-letter/128851/135>

October 29, 2025 – A known problematic individual violated the Etiquette Guidelines in the general channel of the community forum. A general moderator admonished him to observe the guidelines and forum moderator @iandees closed the thread.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/where-in-osm-to-change-czech-republic-to-czechia/136691>

November 5, 2025 – The Moderation Team voted to ban the known problematic individual for life from posting to the forum due to continued violations of the Etiquette Guidelines and demonstrated inability to collaborate with others. Prior to that the wiki administrators banned this individual from editing the wiki. The Moderation Team notified the individual by email of the ban but received no response.

https://osmfoundation.org/w/images/c/c6/Lifetime_ban_of_user_Tobias_Conradi_from_community_forum_Loomio.pdf

https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/User:Tobias_Conradi

May 2, 2026 – The Moderation Team voted by consensus to ask a user, who posted a reply on the community forum flagged as inappropriate by three other community members, to rewrite the reply while adhering to the Etiquette Guidelines, and to hide the message until that was done. The user chose not to change the reply and to leave it hidden.

<https://community.openstreetmap.org/t/osm-science-2026/143356/3>